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UNITED STATES.

REPORTS TO THE SURGEON-GENERAL, PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE.

PLAGUE-PREVENTION WORK.

Infected Ground Squirrels.

An infected squirrel was found in San Luis Obispo County, Cal., January 29. In Alameda County, Cal., 2 infected squirrels were found February 5.

Passed Asst. Surg. G. W. McCoy reports:

The only development of special importance during the past week is the discovery of an infected ground squirrel from San Luis Obispo County, Cal. The place where this squirrel was found is about 150 miles south of San Francisco. The county is one of the coast counties of the State.

The infected rodent was found in the northern end of the county at a point about midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. It is important to note that about 2,000 squirrels from this county had been examined before an infected one was found. This illustrates why the determination of the extent of the epizootic is a matter requiring much time and work.

Cattle as Possible Intermediary Hosts for Squirrel Fleas.

Asst. Surg. Friench Simpson reports:

In a consideration of the facts of plague transmission from rat to man or from squirrel to man, through the intermediation of the flea, the opportunity for the passage of the infected flea from rat to man is easily perceived. Practically, rats and man make their homes together; both are migratory and both subsist on food of the same character. Further, the rat in foraging, visits a territory which is periodically, and with more or less frequency, occupied by man. This actual, though not necessarily perceived, contact, affords opportunity for the passage of the infected flea from one host to another, and plague arising under such circumstances is reasonably explained.

The close association of squirrels in their villages offers an easy means for the passage of fleas from one animal to another, and that infected fleas can transmit plague from squirrel to squirrel has been demonstrated beyond doubt, but the method of conveyance and the opportunity for the passage of infected fleas from squirrel to man is not so readily demonstrated. By preference the squirrel lives in the open and probably by election would build his home far from human habitations, but because of a more abundant food supply he is frequently found practically at one's door. In common with the rat, he obtains at least a part of his food supply from man, and in numerous instances lives in a territory periodically, although more rarely, traversed by man. Plague occurring where this relationship can be shown to exist, and where infected squirrels can be found, might be reasonably explained as an infection resulting from contact with squirrels. In fact, plague in man has occurred with sufficient frequency where this close association could be shown to warrant the statement that the infection came from the squirrel. But the occurrence of two cases of plague, without exposure to rat infection, and where the route of infection could not be satisfactorily traced to the squirrel, has led to the belief that there exists some unrecognized means of conveyance for infected fleas. A possible solution is contained in the theory that cattle on the range are the unrecognized factors, in that they offer a means for the conveyance of infected fleas from squirrels to man. In support of this theory attention is called to the following facts: Fleas abound in and about squirrel villages, the number present depending on the season of the year, and cattle as they range over this territory stray through and lie down to rest in and around these villages. Under such circumstances they might acquire fleas, and since it has been established that fleas quickly desert an animal after death and seek another host, they would the more readily acquire fleas in those villages containing infected squirrels. Where fed daily at some common point, as is the case with dairy cattle, they might readily convey these fleas from the homes of the squirrel to the homes of man, and plague occurring under such circumstances, where this intermediate host was not recognized, would not be satisfactorily traced to its source.

On visiting certain squirrel villages known to be plague infected, I have been impressed with their isolation and with the lack of evidence of more than occasional contact with man; but at the same time cattle were seen grazing in and around such villages. That they may act as the connecting link in transmission seems plausible.

Doctor McCoy further reports:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Last case of human plague sickened January 30, 1908. Last case of rodent plague trapped October 23, 1908. Total number of rats found infected to date 398.

Week ended February 12, 1910. Premises inspected, 1,185. Houses destroyed, 8. Nuisances abated, 145. Poisons placed, 7,420. Rats trapped, 1,939. Rats found dead, 28. Gophers trapped, 2. Rats identified, 1,967, as follows: *Mus norvegicus*, 1,424; *Mus rattus*, 98; *Mus musculus*, 330; *Mus alexandrinus*, 115. Examined bacteriologically, 1,639 rats and 2 gophers. No plague infection found.

OAKLAND, CAL.

Last case of human plague sickened October 26, 1909. Last case of rodent plague trapped December 1, 1908.

Week ended February 12, 1910. Rats found dead, 16. Rats trapped, 600. Rats identified, 616, as follows: *Mus norvegicus*, 524; *Mus alexandrinus*, 2; *Mus musculus*, 90. Rats examined bacteriologically, 611. No plague-infected rats found.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CAL. (Exclusive of Oakland).

Last case of human plague sickened 2 miles southwest of Sunol September 26, 1909. Last plague-infected rodent was found February 5, 1910. To the present time 64 ground squirrels and 1 wood rat have been found infected.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 5. Ground squirrels shot, 27; found dead, 2. Acres covered with poison, 160. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 29. Plague-infected squirrels found, 2.

The infected squirrels were found February 5, 1 at Berkeley Heights and 1 at North Cragmont.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, CAL.

The last case of human plague sickened July 21, 1908. The last plague-infected rodent was found January 15, 1910. Total number of ground squirrels found infected to date, 242.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 5. Ground squirrels shot, 70; trapped, 5. Rabbits trapped, 2. Examined bacteriologically, 72 ground squirrels and 2 rabbits. No plague infection found.

FRESNO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Fresno County.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 35. Ground squirrels shot, 594. Ground squirrels found dead, 3. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 596. No plague-infected squirrels found.

MARIPOSA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Mariposa County.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 11. Ground squirrels shot, 109; found dead, 1; trapped, 3. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 110. No plague-infected squirrels found.

MERCED COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Merced County.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 9. Ground squirrels shot, 211. Rabbits shot, 19. Examined bacteriologically 211 squirrels and 19 rabbits. No plague infection found.

MONTEREY COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Monterey County.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 34. Ground squirrels shot, 305; trapped, 3. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 303. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in San Joaquin County.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 15. Ground squirrels shot, 81. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 81. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human plague in San Luis Obispo County. A plague-infected rodent was found January 29, 1910.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 29. Ground squirrels shot, 409. Kangaroo rats found dead, 1. Examined bacteriologically 409 squirrels and 1 kangaroo rat. One plague-infected squirrel was found.

The plague-infected ground squirrel was found January 29 in the vicinity of San Miguel.

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in San Mateo County.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 9. Ground squirrels shot, 90. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 90. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Santa Barbara County.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 19. Ground squirrels shot, 200; found dead, 8; trapped, 4. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 208. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human plague in Santa Clara County. The last plague-infected rodent was found November 3, 1909. Total number of ground squirrels found infected to date, 9.

Week ended February 12, 1910. Ranches inspected, 4. Ground squirrels shot, 85. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 81. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human plague in Santa Cruz County. A plague-infected ground squirrel was found November 6, 1909.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 22. Ground squirrels shot, 52; trapped, 7. Rabbits shot, 1. Examined bacteriologically 55 squirrels and 1 rabbit. No plague infection found.

SOLANO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Solano County.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 1. Ground squirrels shot, 4. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 4. No plague-infected squirrels found.

TULARE COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Tulare County.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 79. Ground squirrels shot, 400. Rabbits shot, 3. Ground squirrels found dead, 6; trapped, 11. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 415. No plague-infected squirrels found.

VENTURA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Ventura County.

Week ended February 12. Ranches inspected, 8. Ground squirrels shot, 213. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 210. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SEATTLE, WASH.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Glover reports:

No case of human plague since October 30, 1907. The last plague-infected rat was found February 8, 1910. Total plague-infected rats found to date, 22.

Week ended February 12. Rats received, 738. Rats necropsied, 548. No plague-infected rats found.

SMALLPOX IN THE UNITED STATES.

Reports Received During Week Ended March 4, 1910.

Place.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Alabama:				
Montgomery	Feb. 13-19	24	....	
Arkansas:				
Argenta	Feb. 6-12	6	....	
Little Rock	Jan. 1-Feb. 19	56	....	This includes 20 cases previously reported occurring between Jan. 25 and 31.
California:				
Los Angeles	Feb. 6-12	1	....	
Sacramento	Jan. 1-31	48	....	
San Francisco	Feb. 6-12	1	....	
District of Columbia	Feb. 13-19	3	....	
Florida:				
Columbia County	Feb. 13-19	2	....	
Escambia County	Feb. 13-19	10	....	
Kansas:				
Allen County	Jan. 1-31	1	....	
Barton County	Jan. 1-31	1	....	
Bourbon County	Jan. 1-31	3	....	
Cherokee County	Jan. 1-31	8	....	
Crawford County	Jan. 1-31	3	....	
Pittsburg	Jan. 1-31	1	....	
Decatur County	Jan. 1-31	11	....	
Dickinson County	Jan. 1-31	4	....	
Ellsworth County	Jan. 1-31	14	....	
Finney County	Jan. 1-31	1	....	
Ford County	Jan. 1-31	6	....	
Graham County	Jan. 1-31	20	....	
Gray County	Jan. 1-31	18	....	
Hamilton County	Jan. 1-31	2	....	
Jewell County	Jan. 1-31	37	....	
Kearney County	Jan. 1-31	1	....	
Kingman County	Jan. 1-31	2	....	
Labette County	Jan. 1-31	5	....	
Logan County	Jan. 1-31	2	....	
McPherson County	Jan. 1-31	2	....	
Miami County	Jan. 1-31	3	....	
Montgomery County	Jan. 1-31	86	....	
Coffeyville	Jan. 1-31	11	....	
Nemeha County	Jan. 1-31	1	....	
Neosha County	Jan. 1-31	1	....	
Norton County	Jan. 1-31	8	....	
Osage County	Jan. 1-31	11	....	
Phillips County	Jan. 1-31	3	....	
Rawlins County	Jan. 1-31	5	....	
Reno County	Jan. 1-31	50	....	
Rice County	Jan. 1-31	1	....	
Riley County	Jan. 1-31	8	....	
Rush County	Jan. 1-31	5	....	
Russell County	Jan. 1-31	1	....	
Sedgwick County	Jan. 1-31	1	....	
Wichita	Jan. 1-31	1	....	
Shawnee County—				
Topeka	Jan. 1-31	8	....	
Sheridan County	Jan. 1-31	1	....	
Smith County	Jan. 1-31	2	....	